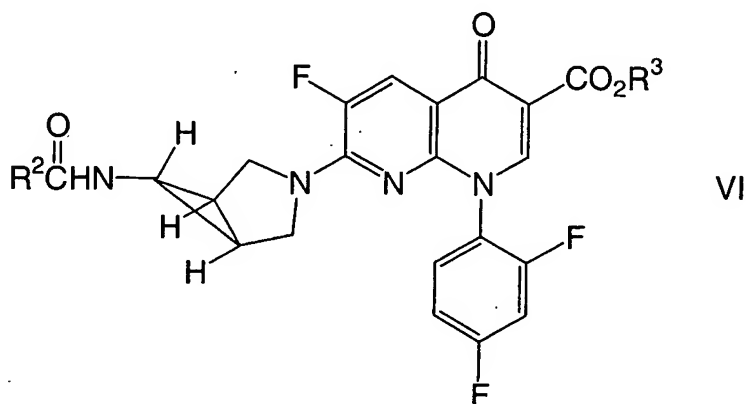


Please amend the claims as follows.

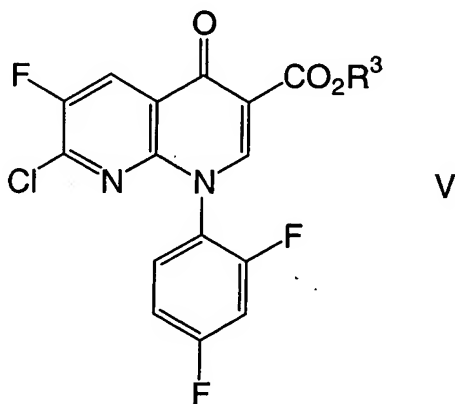
Please replace Claims 8, 9 and 10 with the following corresponding amended claims.

8(once amended). A process for the preparation of a compound of the formula

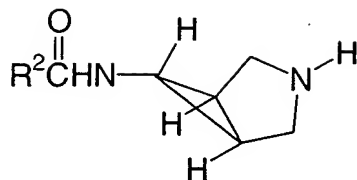


wherein R^2 is C_1 - C_6 alkyl, trifluoromethyl, or phenyl which may be substituted by one or more of C_1 - C_6 alkyl, C_1 - C_6 alkoxy, halo, nitro, amino or trifluoromethyl, and

R^3 is C_1 - C_6 alkyl, which comprises reacting a compound of the formula

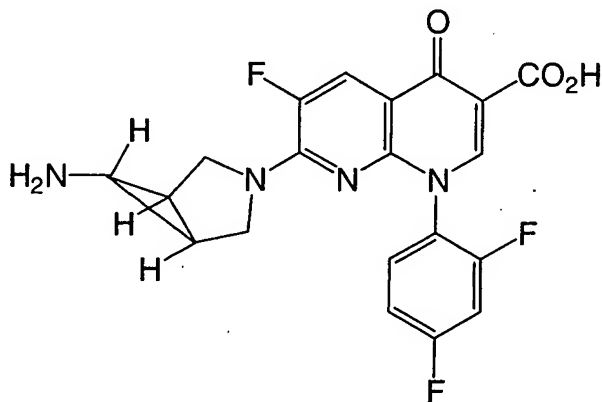


with a compound of the formula



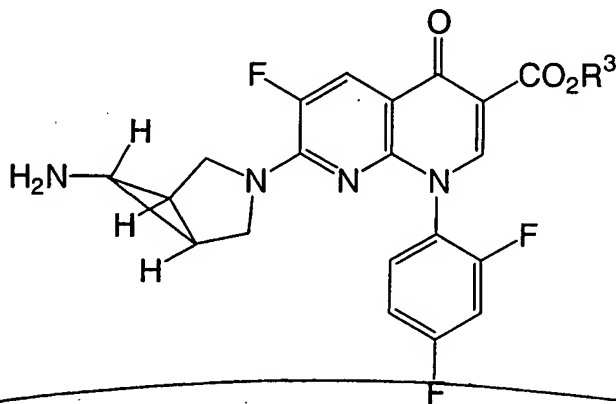
IV

9(once amended). A process comprising hydrolysis of the compound of formula VI with methanesulfonic acid, water and an organic solvent to form a monomethanesulfonic acid salt of a compound of the formula



VII

10(once amended). A process comprising hydrolysis of the compound of formula VI with methanesulfonic acid and R^3OH wherein R^3 is C_1-C_6 alkyl to form a monomethanesulfonic acid salt of a compound of the formula



VIII